



∴ AXBRIDGE RURAL ∴  
∴ DISTRICT COUNCIL ∴



# Annual Reports



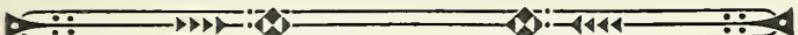
— OF THE —

*Medical Officer of Health*

— AND —

— *Sanitary Inspector* —

FOR 1912.





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AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
*Medical Officer of Health*  
FOR 1912.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Axbridge  
Rural District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

The geographical features of the district are limestone chiefly, sandstone in a few localities, peat in the lower marshes, and clay. The water in the lowlands near the sea being brackish where shallow wells are dug, as in the North Marsh.

The occupation is agricultural, dairy farming being the chief business. Much cheese is made and milk sent to towns, both by individual farmers and from dépôts, or those farmers who contract and collect milk from small dairies.

The area is 85,931 acres.

Population:—

24,965	...	Census 1891
23,744	...	Census 1910
23,068	...	Census 1911

The decrease being noticeable.

Inhabited houses, 5,934; Persons per house, 4.

The outdoor relief charge amounted to £4,018 during the year ending 30th September, 1912, and £130 was paid for persons obtaining relief in other Unions.

The indoor Workhouse maintenance charge was £2,461, including drugs, medicines, etc.

#### Water Supply.

That of the South Marsh derived from the powerful springs at Cross, and pumped by steam to a reservoir on the hill adjacent, is excellent in quality and quantity. This supplies Weare, Bidisham, Badgeworth, Mark, Lympsham, Burnham (Without), and Brent in an efficient manner. The supply from Mendip, that feeds Cheddar, Axbridge, and Highbridge is also excellent and copious, and was but little affected by the dry summer, and supplied the South Marsh area, while the new pumps were being fixed at the Pumping Station.

The Wincombe supply was insufficient at periods to supply its district, and Shipham has again been short of water at times. A good new well has been sunk to add to the supply, but the reservoir is very faulty and leaks and needs renovation and strengthening. The matter received the very serious attention of the Council, and I hope will not occur again. It is calculated that there was much waste of water, and that if well regulated much waste can be prevented, but the existing supply is not superabundant. A supply of good water for the North Marsh is urgently wanted. Being a flat low-lying district, where only surface and brackish water can be obtained locally, much difficulty has arisen in obtaining a supply, and the expense great; but I understand final arrangements are now being discussed to provide the supply needed. This will supply Ban-

well, Congresbury, Wrington, Puxton, and Wick St. Lawrence. Other parts of the district are supplied by wells, pits, rain water, public wells, or rhyne water.

Christon, though small in area, has not a good water supply.

Wells are the chief source of water supply for domestic use, and though there has been little serious disease in the district throughout the year 1912, many of them should be better protected from surface pollution with a collar six to twelve inches high above ground of well-built masonry and cement, the ground earth dug away for five feet deep at least around every well, and the space filled in with an impervious layer of cement or concrete. By so doing, any surface pollution would have to filter through at least five feet of soil before gaining access to the well.

Wrington has a drainage system and filtration beds. The sewers were again flooded, and overflowed, but the strenuous efforts of the Engineer seems to have overcome the trouble.

Efficient sewers exist in Cheddar and Axbridge; but for the most part privies and cesspits are in general use that often overflow into a ditch adjacent. No privy or cess pit should empty direct into a ditch; the overflow should filter through at least three yards of soil, gravel, clinkers, or broken stone, as eventually the water is drank by cattle, and even used for domestic purposes.

The water supplies have little or no plumbago solvent action, and cases of lead poisoning are not frequent now that more care is taken with the taps and storage and manufacture of cider, brass and pewter being abandoned.

Sanitary Improvements.

Berrow being close to Burnham—in fact adjoining—could easily be connected to facilitate the drainage of Berrow.

Arrangements have been completed to supply Worle with water from the Weston supply.

Chemical and bacteriological analyses of the wells at Wedmore and Theale have been made. Eight were reported as bad, two good, and two only moderately satisfactory of the twelve samples taken. The streams and rhynes are the main drainage of the district, which eventually find their way into the River Axe, discharging at Uphill into the sea. Privies with cesspits are universal, though effort is being made to supplant them with earth closets. In some places with a water supply, water-flushed W.C's are in use.

Scavenging.

House refuse is removed by the individual householder, and the cesspits emptied periodically in like manner.

Milk Supply.

Dairy work is the chief industry of the district. The procedures are usually carried out with increasing care. All churns are scalded out with boiling water, often with steam, and the milk is excellent in quality, as I often personally test it by drinking it in my numerous inspections and visits. The milk that is sent away to towns is all carefully strained and cooled by special water-cooled apparatus—the dirt that is complained of by the consumers too often gets in in transit and at the retailers.

The cows and cowsheds are kept fairly clean, though hardly up to the continental or model standard, and “the cow is a dirty animal.” Grooming the cows and sheds means labour—the grave present-day difficulty in most callings of

agriculture—still the question of cleanliness cannot too strongly or too often be impressed on those who attend to cowsheds and dairies, and upon milkers especially. The health of the animals in the locality is usually good; being a very mild area they are out most of the winter months, and tuberculosis is apparently not so common as in some districts.

In case of infectious disease in a dairy farm the milk is all sent off from the field of milking, and is not allowed to enter the premises; dairy work is temporarily stopped, and the milk sold forthwith. By these stringent measures disease is very materially stopped from spreading, and our thanks are due to the farmers who always acquiesce in this procedure without hesitation, notwithstanding the loss and inconvenience it causes.

The pig industry is satisfactorily carried out in a cleanly, efficient manner; very few complaints having arisen, which are speedily arranged. Very few cases of anthrax have occurred, and owing to the stringent precautions no foot and mouth disease occurred.

There are 495 persons entered on the register; also six cow-keepers on the register. 5607 inspections have been made during the year. The register is complete, though it is constantly changing, as the farmers cease to sell milk at various periods, according to demand, supply, and personal convenience, and time's price, and where farms change hands.

Advice is constantly given and suggestions made, and the conditions are improving both as regards method, buildings, and sanitation, though there is much room for improvement and progress.

The sanitary inspections have been numerous, viz., 1,279; many household defects were remedied, e.g., sinks, W.C.'s, rubbish heaps, ventilation defects, dirty rooms, bedding, furniture, and bad floors. Lodging houses are periodically inspected, but no cellar dwellings or offensive trades exist in the district.

**Food.**

We have had little or no trouble with bad meat or unsound food. No outbreaks or serious illness from food poisoning have occurred.

**Slaughter Houses.**

Slaughter houses are 32 in number, of which 16 are licensed; and constant inspections (182) made. There are bye-laws for eight parishes only in this Union. All have good drainage and water supply.

**Factories and Workshops.**

Factories and Workshops report appended.

**Bakehouses.**

Bakehouses number 31. None are underground; all are well conducted.

**Schools.**

The sanitary condition of the schools is good, and the water supply and conveniences for washing in most cases adequate. All cases of absence from infectious disease are reported by the schoolmaster or mistress to the Medical Officer of Health and the County Medical Officer, and the cases excluded from school.

Many cases of adenoid disease, bad teeth, defective eyesight and hearing have been attended to.

**Housing.**

Considerable progress has been made during the year with the very difficult task of carrying out the Housing Act of 1909. In Shipham, a great proportion of the cottagers (33 out of 60 small cottages that were inspected) own their houses, and find difficulty in getting the money to carry out improvements; and being old, and

originally ill-constructed of poor materials, repairing them is difficult. It is also questionable if houses in the marshes and turf moors are fit for habitation that are dry and comfortable in the summer, but are periodically flooded in the winter and in times of heavy rainfall. There is no doubt that new cottages are required for the working classes, and that they will be greatly appreciated, little or any loss being incurred, as a small garden will be an additional source of income. Care will naturally be taken that such be for the working class only, and not for town people who like to have a little cottage in the country for week-end visits.

Numerous inspections have been made and repairs and improvements carried out, but little short of demolition and re-building will render many of these old primitive, ill-built cottages really comfortable to live in—it is the piece of new cloth on the old garment only too frequently. An experienced builder says he dreads to touch many of these houses. The want of new cottages should be carefully considered by every Parish Council, who naturally know the requirements of their own area, and their demands and statements laid before the District Council to carry out the Act. This must be done, and done quickly, for it is a terrible hardship for these poor people to be turned out of their own houses by legal force, which they have owned for years, and yet cannot possibly afford to maintain in a proper state of repair as the law demands, and which we must enforce and get, without any humane alternative such as we should be able to suggest if there were other houses to which they could retreat, and at present there are usually none suitable or within a reasonable distance. In fact, new

cottages for the working classes are required in the country with at least three bedrooms, a living-room, kitchen, and scullery, built with a high step up from the ground level, and wooden floors in the rooms. Many of these old houses are below the ground on the first floor, with old stone floors, often cracked, that are often damp and will not dry after washing. Happily the New Building Bye-laws will prevent at last, more ill-built insanitary houses, without damp courses and shooting, being erected for the future.

The number of Houses inspected under the Housing Act, 1909, has been 238. Fourteen closing orders were made, 12 of which were repaired and made fit for habitation, two are closed, and three closed without a "Closing Order" being served; 63 had minor defects, which have been remedied; 161 of those inspected were in good repair.

There is a large steam laundry at Worle, and two small shirt and washing factories at Cheddar. All are well conducted and inspected.

All other industries are on a small scale, employing a few hands only.

No register is provided, but the bakehouses, butchers and sausage makers, dressmakers, basket and boot makers, tailors, saddlers, washing people, carpenters and coach builders, smiths, and brewers are constantly inspected on our daily rounds of inspection and visits.

Mostly very small businesses employing few hands, though strawberry picking is extensive in June. Dairy work is the chief industry. All the bakehouses have been inspected, and are generally

satisfactory. There are no underground bake-houses in the district; all are cleaned and white-lined according to statute.

All workshops in the district have been periodically inspected; also the home workers. No cases of infectious disease has originated therefrom.

The outworkers are numerous, and vary in number from day to day according to supply, as so many do dressmaking and sewing and washing when the work is forthcoming.

There is a shirt factory at Cheddar, which sends out work—sewing and laundry work—from time to time—but it is irregular and on quite a small scale.

No Local Government Board enquiry has been held during the year.

The work is done by the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector, the Lady Health Visitor, who has had much experience of tuberculosis and general sanitary work, all acting under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

All throat swabs of suspicious diphtheritic aspect, sputa from possible and probable tuberculosis cases, and blood specimens, water analyses, chemical and bacteriological, are sent to the experts at the Public Health Laboratory at Weston-super-Mare, whose decisions have been most accurate and of the utmost value and assistance.

There is no hospital for infectious diseases—only two tents and a moveable wood hut.

Bye-laws are in force for eight parishes, slaughterhouses are thereby included. It would be well if such were adopted for the whole Union,

though satisfactory and well conducted and constantly inspected. Bye-laws for new buildings are also in force throughout the district.

**Scarlatina.**

Twenty-four cases were reported; these were all of a sporadic and mild type—imported cases. No deaths were reported, and no spreading occurred in any locality. In all cases any milk business was confined to sending off milk from the field of milking, and no dairy work was conducted on the premises. The houses were visited, precautions were enjoined, and pamphlets of advice given, and the schools notified.

On the termination of the disease the rooms were thoroughly disinfected, all linen washed and boiled, while the bedding, blankets, and pillows were placed in the super-heated steam disinfecter.

**Diphtheria.**

There have been 42 cases notified during the year, many of a mild, sporadic type, serious on account of this lightness of the symptoms, because it is difficult for the public to believe that such cases can be the causes of dangerous and fatal attacks in more susceptible subjects with whom they come in contact. Cultures of all suspected throats have been taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, to whom our best thanks are due for the rapidity and accuracy of their investigation, without which in obscure and mild cases a correct diagnosis could scarcely be arrived at.

Antitoxin has been distributed free of charge, *ad lib.*, to all the Poor Law Medical Officers, which bounty has been much appreciated, and it has been used freely and promptly with much success. Several carriers have been detected, isolated, and treated until rendered innocuous, and precautions carefully carried out.

At the termination of cases, disinfection is carried out, as in cases of scarlatina.

The above diseases are not notifiable, but were reported as they arose to the County Medical Officer, and exclusion notes were issued to the schools.

Three cases of poliomyelitis were reported—two were young children, one an adult. The cases were widely separated, and it is difficult to imagine any contact, at least, I could discover no trace or any common cause of origin. Advice was given on the lines adopted for diphtheria, the secretions of the nose and mouth being possible vehicles of infection. All discharges from the nose and mouth were burnt, and all drinking and feeding utensils boiled after use, and strict injunctions given as to kissing and avoidable close contact with the patient, linen, etc. A case of smallpox visited a house in Axbridge at Easter. I personally vaccinated all the inmates, and adopted every precaution, securing an isolated site and barn, and prepared the tents and wood hut for immediate erection should any cases of smallpox arise. However, none occurred, due doubtless to the immediate vaccination, as the visitor with the disease developed a severe type of the disease on reaching home.

There is none, though a large district of over 23,000.

If the first cases could be immediately removed to an infectious hospital, much anxiety and loss of business would be saved, for in a district where dairy work is so universal an infectious case dislocates the whole business for many weeks, with serious loss.

Sandford, East Brent, Brent Knoll, and Bidisham schools have been closed for epidemics of measles, and those at Axbridge and Bleadon for whooping cough.

The houses of tuberculosis patients have been inspected and advice given and structural improvements made when necessary. Nearly all have had the advice and experience of the Lady Health Visitor, Miss Gray, who has investigated and reported on all cases in the most thorough, practical, and above all, most tactful and considerate manner. She has been greatly appreciated and welcomed wherever she has called.

All houses, rooms, and necessary bedding has been disinfected after exit or death on notice being given.

Public Sanatorium treatment is deficient in this district.

The infant mortality was low, only 29, as compared with 40 last year; only two dying of zymotic disease, viz., whooping cough, and two of enteritis. Eight children died between the ages of two and five. The infant mortality was eleven less than last year. This is due to the milk supply of the district being exceptionally good in quality and quantity, having personally drank samples in various parts of the district. The milk is obtained fresh from the farms, and people have learnt how important it is to keep it covered and protected from dirt and flies in their homes and to use it fresh.

Ophthalmia neonatorum is now notifiable, and is, luckily, rare; only two cases have been reported. The only cases of recent date, previous to the Order, I have personally attended daily.

**Disinfection.**

All articles for disinfection are sent to the steam disinfector at Worle Steam Laundry, who fetch and return the same by special conveyance from all infectious cases—scarlatina, diphtheria, and tuberculosis. In tuberculosis, the rooms occupied are disinfected with sulphur and Formalin fumigation, the floors and walls washed with Izal, the rooms papered or coloured, and ceilings whitewashed.

Notifications of tuberculosis are reported to the Health Department in Weston-super-Mare, and the place visited by the Health Visitor, Inspector, or myself. Leaflets of advice are distributed and disinfectants and sputum bottles provided, or other articles requisite for personal sanitation.

**Births and Deaths.**

From the Registrar's returns I find that during the year there were 446 births: males, 215; females, 231; 22 of whom were illegitimate, giving a rate of 19.3 in the population of 23,068.

The deaths for the same period (1912) were 318: males, 173; females, 145; giving a rate on the population of 23,068 of 13.8. Of these, 14 were strangers registered in the district, and 17 were residents, who died outside the district.

Deaths under 1 year numbered	...	29
,, from 1 to 2 years numbered	...	3
,, , 2 to 5 ,,, ,	...	5
,, , 5 to 15 ,,, ,	...	6
,, , 15 to 25 ,,, ,	...	*28
,, , 25 to 45 ,,, ,	...	†34
,, , 45 to 65 ,,, ,	...	92
,, , 65 upwards ,,, ,	...	121

\*20 of phthisis.      †10 of phthisis.

## Deaths from Zymotic Disease numbered 7 :—

Whooping Cough	...	...	3
Enteric	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	36
Cancer	...	...	30

## Notified Infectious Disease, 259 :—

Diphtheria	...	...	42
Erysipelas	...	...	20
Scarlatina	...	...	24
Enteric	...	...	2
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	169	

Numerous inspections have been made in the district, and all insanitary conditions and nuisances abated as soon as they were discovered or reported, while those localities in which diseases appeared received special attention, and its sanitation investigated and improved.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. V. LECHE,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Elmcroft, Axbridge,  
Dated February, 1913.

TABLE I.  
Vital Statistics of whole District during 1912 and previous years.  
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS.				TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.				NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non- residents deaths not register'd in the District.		Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	At all Ages.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Rate.			Under 1	Year of Age.			10	11			12	13		
1907	23,126	473	473	19·8	239	10·0	..	..	..	37	74·0	239	10·0				
1908	23,126	492	492	20·5	322	13·4	..	..	..	40	81·3	322	13·4				
1909	23,126	488	488	20·5	329	13·6	..	..	..	33	67·4	329	13·6				
1910	23,126	466	466	19·0	287	11·0	..	..	..	30	64·3	287	11·0				
1911	23,068	467	467	19·0	287	11·0	..	..	15	40	81·1	291	11·0				
1912	23,068	446	441	19·3	318	13·8	14	17	29	61·9	321	13·8					

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) . . . . .  
Total population at all ages .. .. .. .. ..  
Number of inhabited houses .. .. .. .. ..  
Average number of persons per house .. .. .. .. ..

23,068 } At Census  
5,546 } of 1911.  
4 }

TABLE II.  
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1912.  
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.					TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY (i.e., Parish or Ward) of the District.				
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 and upw'ards.	Weston.	Bleadon.	Burnham.	Axbridge.
Diphtheria (including Mem-branous croup) ..	42	..	5	10	16	9	2	10	14	6	12
Erysipelas ..	20	..	..	..	2	8	10	2	3	4	11
Scarlet fever ..	24	..	..	14	10	..	..	5	3	2	14
Enteric fever ..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	1
Postpartal fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Poliomyelitis ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	169	..	..	..	19	80	55	15	7	18	7
Totals .. ..	259	..	5	43	109	74	28	25	38	19	177

Sanatoriums—St. Michael's, Cheddar; Engel Home, Cheddar.

TABLE III  
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1912.  
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT AT THE SUBJOINED AGES.						DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS.		
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
Influenza	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria and Croup	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Enteritis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	32	1	1	1	1	20	10	1	14
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Tuberculosis Disease	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1
Cancer, malignant disease	30	2	2	2	2	4	14	12	5
Bronchitis	28	2	2	1	3	4	10	10	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3
Alcoholism	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	17	1	1	1	1	1	10	6	2
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	10	10	1	2	2	2	5	5	5
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	16	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3
Suicides	3	10	10	1	1	3	4	4	29
Other Defined Diseases	158	29	3	5	6	28	34	92	121
	318	29	3	5	6	28	34	92	54

TABLE IV.  
Infantile Mortality during the Year 1912. Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months  
under One Year of Age.

AXBURGE RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.		1—2 weeks.		2—3 weeks.		3—4 weeks.		Total under 1 month.		1—3 months.		3—6 months.		6—9 months.		9—12 months.		Total Deaths under 1 year.				
	Under	1 week.	1	2	weeks.	2	3	weeks.	3	4	weeks.	Total	under 1 month.	1	3	months.	6	9	months.	9	12	months.	1
Whooping-cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	
Convulsions ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Pneumonia, all forms ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Gastritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Atelectasis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Congenital Malformations ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
Premature birth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	
Other causes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	
	5	3	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	

Nett Births in the year—legitimate, 446; illegitimate, 22.

Nett Deaths in the year—legitimate and illegitimate, 29.

A. V. LECHE, Medical Officer of Health.

February, 1913.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1912,  
for the Rural District of Axbridge.

**Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Housework.**

**1—INSPECTION.**

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors and Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspection.	Written Notice.	Persecutions.
Factories .. .. ..	48	..	..
(Including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops .. .. ..	110	..	..
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces .. .. ..	120	..	..
Homeworkers' Premises .. .. ..			
Total .. .. ..	278	..	..

**2—DEFECTS FOUND.**

Want of Ventilation—Found, 2; Remedied, 2;  
Referred to H.M. Inspector, 2.

**3—HOME WORK. Nil.**

**4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.**

No Register is provided, but the Bakehouses, Butchers and Sausage Makers, Dressmakers, Basket and Bootmakers, Tailors, Saddlers, Working People, Carpenters and Coach Builders, Smiths, Brewers, are constantly inspected on our daily rounds of inspection and visits.

Mostly very small businesses, employing few hands, though strawberry picking is extensive in June.

Dairy work is the chief industry.

**5—OTHER MATTERS. Nil.**

A. V. LECHE,

February 1913.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## Phthisis : Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation.

### AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

	ST. MICHAEL'S HOME,	ENGEL HOME, CHEDDAR.
Classes for which accommodation is provided—		
(a) Early cases .. ..	..	..
(b) Intermediate cases ..	25	17
(c) Advanced cases ..	16	..
By whom provided .. ..	Endowed by the late Mrs. W. Gibbs.	Payments and donations.
Where situated .. ..	Cheddar.	Cheddar.
Total number of Beds ..	41	17
How are patients selected ? ..	By Application.	By Application.
Are the patients under the care of a resident Medical Officer ? ..	No.	No.
What charge, if any, is made for the use of Beds ? .. ..	None.	8/-, 15/-, 20/- per week.
Do the Sanitary Authority use— (1) their Isolation Hospital, or (2) their Small-pox Hospital, for cases of Phthisis ? .. ..	No, being none.	No, being none.
Do the Sanitary Authority reserve Beds in any Phthisis Sanatorium :—If so, how many, and in what Sanatorium ? .. ..	No.	No.
Do the Sanitary Authority provide portable Open-air Shelters or Tents ? .. .. ..	No.	No.

Have the Council, or any Private Body, provided a Dispensary ?—No.

A. V. LECHE,

*February, 1913.*

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## HOUSING.

1. Sanitary District .. .. ..	Axbridge
2. Number of Houses in the Sanitary District..	5934
3. New Houses erected during 1911 and 1912 (Each year separately) .. ..	1911—32 1912—25
4. Number of houses inspected during 1912 under the Housing Act, 1909 (This must not include re-inspections of houses previously inspected).. .. ..	238
5. Results of inspections of the fresh Houses inspected during 1912, classified as follows:—	
(a) Number reported as unfit for human habitation .. .. ..	14
(b) Number defective, but with defects not sufficient to report as unfit for habitation	63
(c) Number without recorded sanitary defects	161
6. Action taken and results in regard to houses reported as unfit during 1911 and 1912, as follows:—	For houses reported during
Number so reported .. .. ..	1911.                   1912
Closing Order made .. .. ..	3                         14
Made fit without a Closing Order ..	1                         14
Still unfit, but no Closing Order made ..	397                     63
Demolished .. .. ..	none                     none
Put in repair after Closing Order ..	2                         none
Still closed at end of 1912 .. .. ..	none                     12
	..                         6 (5 + 1 in 1911-1912)
	3 closed voluntarily
7. Action taken with regard to defective Houses, but not sufficient to report as unfit, as follows:—	For houses first examined during
Number so examined .. .. ..	1911.                   1912.
Number with the defects remedied by the end of 1912 .. .. ..	397                     63
Number still defective at end of 1912 ..	..                         37
Number not yet visited to ascertain if defects are remedied .. .. ..	..                         26
8. Parishes in which there is evidence of shortage of Houses, and steps taken to remedy ..	...                         none
	The greater number of parishes require labourers cottages No steps taken yet, but an enquiry is to be held at Shipham and Winscombe in February, 1913.

# ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

*Sanitary Inspector*

— FOR THE YEAR 1912. —



*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Axbridge.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1912.

The area of the district is 85,931 acres, with a population of 23,068 (census 1911); number of houses, 5,934.

Notices.

During the year, twelve notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1875. By verbal and written requests, many minor nuisances were abated.

Letters.

Number of letters written, 433.

Water Certificates.

Certificates under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, were granted for 25 new houses. All are well supplied with water.

Houses Overcrowded.

Five cases of overcrowding were dealt with and the number of inmates in each house reduced.

Infectious Disease.

All notifications of infectious cases were forwarded to me by the Medical Officer of Health. I visited each case, supplied disinfectants, and, after patients had recovered, fumigated the rooms, thoroughly cleaned with disinfectants, limewashed and re-papered.

Schools.

The Schools in three parishes were thoroughly fumigated, and disinfectants supplied for washing floors, desks, etc.

Rooms Disinfected.

Forty-two rooms, which had been occupied by persons suffering from infectious disease, were fumigated, and, where considered necessary, the bedding, etc., was removed, disinfected, and returned, free of cost, to the owners.

Bakehouses.

There are 31 bakehouses in the district. All are frequently inspected, and generally found clean and well ventilated.

There are no underground bakehouses.

Slaughter-houses.

These number 32. All belong to private owners. They are well ventilated and drained and frequently whitelimed.

The skins and offal are regularly removed.

Two common lodging-houses are registered.

Common Lodging Houses.

Twenty-six samples of water, taken from public and private supplies, were submitted to the County Public Health Department for examination.

Water.

Five lengths of sewers were taken out and relaid, and in many cases where sewers had become choked or crushed, repairs were carried out.

Factories and Workshops.

These, not including bakehouses, comprise six milk depôts, two steam laundries, two woodcutting works, an iron foundry, a mineral water manufactory, and several small laundries in the villages adjoining Weston-super-Mare. All are frequently limewashed and well kept.

Building Bye-laws.

Building Bye-laws have been in force since November, 1911. Plans were submitted for 25 new houses, and for additions and repairs to 20 existing houses.

Dairies and  
Cowsheds.

This being an agricultural district, and the land chiefly pasture, the milk business is a very large and increasing one.

Four hundred and ninety-five milksellers are entered on the Register.

The cowsheds are better than formerly, and generally well ventilated and moderately clean, still many may be improved.

<sup>Housing  
Act, 1909.</sup> During the year I inspected 238 houses. Of these 161 were in good repair, 63 had slight defects, but not sufficient to report as unfit for habitation, and in 14 cases closing orders were made. Twelve of these were put in repair, and two are still closed. In addition, three houses were closed without orders,

I am glad to say in no case has it been found necessary to resort to legal proceedings.

Thanking you for your kind consideration,

I beg to remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HARRY M. TEEK.



